Approved For Release 2000/08/24 : CIA-RDP75-00001R000100370070-0

MORI BUNDLE # _____ DATE _____

PAGES _____

Box _____

Folder # _____

Fon # _____

BEST COPY

AVAILABLE

Approved For Release 2000/08/24 : CIA-RDP75-00001R000100370070-0

APR 0 1963

Approved For Release 2000/08/24 : CIA-RDP75

FOIAb3b

CPYRGHT

Cuba Frees 10 American Prisoners

Arcadia Missionary Among Those Flown to Florida

MIAMI (AP) — Nine American adventurers and a California missionary, pale and thin from solitary confinement in Cuban prisons, were flown to Florida Tuesday after being cleared of suspicion of being agents of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

James B. Donovan, N.Y. lawyer who negotiated with Cuban Premier Fidel Castro for the release of the adventurers, flew back with them.

His next trip to Cuba, Donovan said, will be to secure the release of 22 or 23 more Americans still held in various Cuban prisons.

Avoids Questioning

The missionary arrived Tuesday at Homestead Air Force Base, the Rev. Robert C. Woodworth Jr. of Arcadia, Cal., ducked questions by newsmen. He appeared ill as he stepped from a private engine DC-3 chartered by the Red Cross.

Mr. Woodworth [illegible] headed the Assemblies of God mission in Havana. He was arrested and held incommunicado for 20 days after Castro assailed American religious groups still on the island as counter-revolutionary employees of the CIA.

The other nine Americans had sailed from Florida last January on what they variously described as a fishing, lobstering, skin diving and treasure hunting expedition which was to carry them as far as the Bahamas, public.

Boat Loses Rudder

Capt. Jack W. Browne of Miami said the boat lost its rudder in lower Bahamian waters and later sank in high seas. Browne, his partner Robert C. Moran of Lockport, N.Y., and their seven crewmen jumped into a 26-ft. utility boat and drifted four days until they washed ashore near Camaguey, 300 miles southeast of Havana.

Browne said, "The Cubans figured we were CIA agents. Anyone arriving in Cuba goes to G-2. We were taken to the G-2 headquarters in Havana [illegible]

"They tried to convert my boys to communism. We were kept in individual cells. There were no windows, just louvered doors."

Guard Offers Coffee

Browne said the group was placed together in one cell and given much better treatment during the past three weeks. He attributed the [illegible] efforts of their release to Donovan.

"About 4 o'clock [illegible] morning a guard [illegible] some coffee," Browne said. "If he offered it to me, I figured Donovan was near."

The captain said the Americans were informed a short time later they would be released.

"We [illegible]

U.S. with going back on promises to encourage action against the Castro regime.

Many exile Cubans [illegible] now in the United States were dismayed at President Kennedy's recent crackdown [illegible] on Cuba [illegible]

[illegible] leader of the [illegible] Cuban exile groups at the time of the April 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion fiasco. He was supposed to go to Cuba and proclaim a free government once the troops won a beachhead. He never got there; instead he was kept [illegible] during the invasion by a Central Intelligence Agency team in a [illegible] area.

He was [illegible] recognized for [illegible] home [illegible] the United States. His resignation as premier was [illegible] with his [illegible] the frustrations of many Cuban exiles at the [illegible]

TC
TC-Cuba

Approved For Release 2000/08/24 : CIA-RDP75-00001R000100370070-0